

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 314161 TOSEC 340166
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA - ADUBS
APPROVED BY S-S-O:LRMACFARLANE
NEA - MR. ATHERTON (PHONE)
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O 311859Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 314161 TOSEC 340166

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR EC IS

SUBJECT: SALE OF ISRAELI KFIR AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR

1. SHLAUDEMAN HAS SENT YOU AN ACTION MEMORANDUM RECOMMENDING
THAT WE NOT APPROVE ISRAEL'S REQUEST TO SELL KFIR
AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR.

2. BAR-ON TELEPHONED THIS MORNING ASKING US TO PASS ON TO
YOU THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT ON THIS MATTER. HE SAID
THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD BEEN PRESSED BY ECUADOR TO SIGN A
CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF THE KFIR AIRCRAFT BY THE CLOSE
OF DAY DECEMBER 31. AFTER SOME CONSIDERATION, THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT GAVE AUTHORITY TO THE ISRAELI
AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY CONCERNED TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE
PROVISO, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONTRACT WAS SUBJECT TO THE
APPROVAL OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES. BAR-ON SAID THAT
THIS QTE ESCAPE CLAUSE UNQTE WAS DESIGNED TO LEAVE OPEN
SECRET

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FUTURE ALTERNATIVES OR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE CONTRACT OR,
IN THE WORST CASE, EVEN CANCELLATION. BAR-ON EMPHASIZED
THAT THE CONTRACT WAS NOT A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
CONTRACT BUT ONE BETWEEN COMPANIES. WHEN ASKED ABOUT
THE DURATION OF THE ESCAPE CLAUSE, BAR-ON SAID HE
DIDN'T KNOW BUT FELT IT WAS APPLICABLE FOR AT LEAST

SEVERAL MONTHS.

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3. BAR-ON WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT FROM THE ISRAELIS DIRECTLY RATHER THAN THROUGH ANY OTHER SOURCE. HE WAS AWARE, HE SAID, THAT YOU HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH THEIR MINISTER OF DEFENSE.
ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, BRIEFING MATERIALS, AIRCRAFT SALES, CONTRACTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE314161
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ADUBS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840104-2474
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaadb.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALE OF ISRAELI KFIR AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, EC, IS
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006